4 paws ON THE ROAD

Traveling and Camping with Companion Animals

by Jenn Gehr

Q+A

My family and our two cats are moving from Texas to Oregon. We plan to be on the road for several days with our two vehicles. In the backseat cab of our 4-door truck, we have a large crate set up for both of the cats to reside in comfortably and safely. There are cat beds, a small litter box, and food and water are available to them at all times. The crate is large enough for the cats to move around in and stretch. I can't imagine giving the cats drugs each day to keep them quiet but thought I'd ask you for any other suggestions that might make this already stressful transition a little bit easier for us all.

On The Road Again,

Steve & Nita Swope, ZZ and Bellini

JENN Swope Family, This certainly sounds like a major life transition! I love that you thought to keep all the comforts of home in a secure area with your cats at all times. I, too, think it's ideal to find a natural solution to aid in peaceful travel. There are several products on the market that are a homeopathic solution to be applied as a wipe or spray to the cats paw pads. I'd imagine this type of application would be easier than forcing a pill down their throats! Some natural calming solutions also come in a liquid dropper form for oral supplementation. Look for Rescue Remedy by Bach or Travel Sickness Spray by HomeoAnimal. Also include a sheet or blanket to partially cover the cat cage to help keep them from direct sun exposure and to give them an extra sense of security if they seem fearful of large passing trucks or worries in general. I hope you have a safe journey and a wonderful new life in beautiful Oregon!

Jenn, I know you are an avid camper, hiker and outdoor enthusiast. With so many choices on the market, have you found a favorite water pack or water bottle for multi-use purposes? My dogs love to drink from the water bottle but then I am reluctant to do the same. Also, what is your favorite dog treat to hike with? I am paranoid about anything made in China or full of unwanted fillers or additives.

Thanks, Julie and Lori Scott

JENN Julie and Lori, Yes! Yes! Yes! I have your covered! As a matter of fact, I have recently discovered a water bottle that is a camper/hiker/dog owner/all around must have! The Aquabot is made in the USA by Lunatec and has a built in, mist, 25-foot jet stream or shower mode and fits 63mm-mouth bottles of CamelBak and Nalgene. You can choose the pressure and pulse mode of the spray to accommodate your needs. Everything from a refreshing mist, a strong jet spray that could help wash your dishes to a shower for flushing out a wound, this is a must have bottle for any on-the-go individual. REI carries the Aquabot and that means a worry free and pba free purchase. Retails at $24.00. For more info see www.lunatecgear.com You're going to love it! My must have treat for hiking is also a complete feed Primal Freeze-Dried Pet Food. My girls favor the pork, beef and turkey & sardine formulas best. I carry 4-10 cubes in a plastic baggie and I'm good to go as they are weightless. My dogs are 20 pounds each and usually only eat 1-2 nuggets each mid-hike. I carry extra food for them and myself just in case there were an unforeseen mishap I would at least have extra food and water for us all. I carry a collapsible silicone bowl that I clip on my pack so I can rehydrate the dog food with my Aquabot water bottle. The Primal freeze dried nuggets can be fed dry but be sure to offer your pet water for a rinse down as moisture is an essential part of their diet. The Primal Freeze Dried Food is my dogs' daily diet so I like to bring Papa Psuka strips as a crunchy pocket snack. Primal Beef Liver Munchies or Buffalo Liver Snaps are my other must have treat for training and love. No matter what, be sure you choose antibiotic, preservative, steroid and hormone free foods that are sourced in the USA and preferably organic- this dedication to quality is why I completely trust Primal Pet Foods so much. Our pets are family and depend on us to choose quality for them to ensure optimal health. Thanks for a great question and I hope you enjoy these outstanding people and pet products alike!

Email Jenn your questions and share your pics at TBPets@equitylifestyle.com